

Senior LUH Clinician Delegation Meeting on Surgical Hub with Minister Carroll MacNeill

17.6.25

Agenda

1. Review the business case for Surgical Hub Sligo
2. Present a case why a Surgical Hub should be placed at Letterkenny University Hospital

Evidence and Data

By any reasonable and objective measure, LUH stands out as the only logical evidence based preferred location for a Surgical Hub.

Consider the evidence:

Population

Geography

Clinical activity and need

Funding

Surgical workforce

Surgery at imminent risk of collapse

'Hubs should be situated on sites that support future geographic alignment to ensure a population-based allocation and equitable access to care in every region.'

RCSI Surgical Hubs Clinical Guidance 2023

Despite this, LUH has not been selected. **Why?**

LUH is preferred on population grounds

Population of HSE WNW Region

County	Population 2016	Population 2022
Donegal	159,192	167,084
Galway City	78,668	84,414
Galway County	179,390	193,323
Leitrim	32,044	35,199
Mayo	130,507	137,970
Sligo	65,535	70,198
Roscommon	64,544	70,259
West Cavan	1,098	1,205
WNW Region	710,978	759,652

LUH is preferred on population grounds

IHA populations

County	Population 2016	Population 2022	% Change 2016-2022	% of WNW Population 2022
Donegal	159,192	167,084	5	22.0
Galway City	78,868	84,414	7	11.1
Galway County	114,459	114,459	0	25.4
Leitrim	33,841	35,199	10	4.6
Mayo	130,507	137,970	6	18.2
Sligo	65,535	70,198	7	9.2
Roscommon	64,544	70,259	9	9.2
West Cavan	1,098	1,205	10	0.2
WNW Region	710,978	759,652	7	

159,227 for Donegal

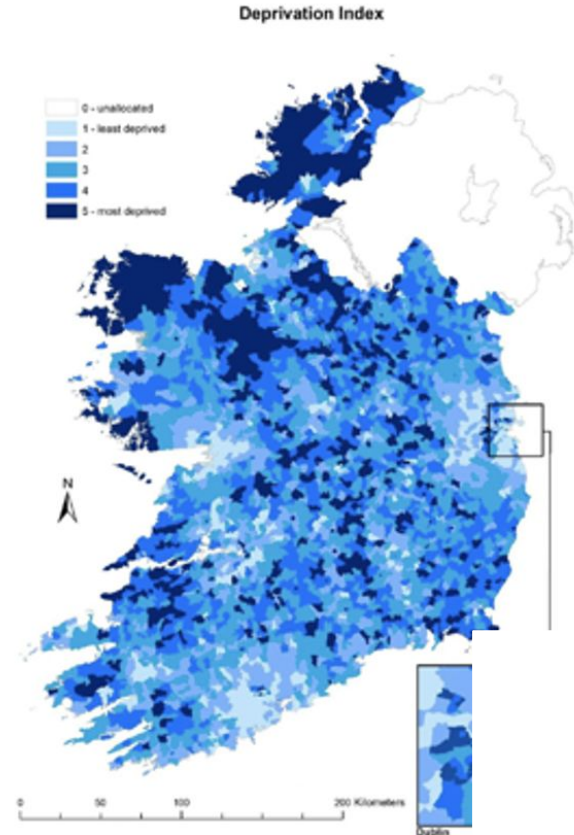
114,459 for Sligo/Leitrim/South Donegal/West Cavan

137,970 for Mayo

347,996 for Galway/Roscommon

LUH is preferred on population grounds

**Most deprived
region in Ireland**



LUH is preferred on geography grounds

Coverage 120 km from Hubs



LUH is preferred on clinical activity grounds

Inpatient discharges 2022

(source NMR HSE)

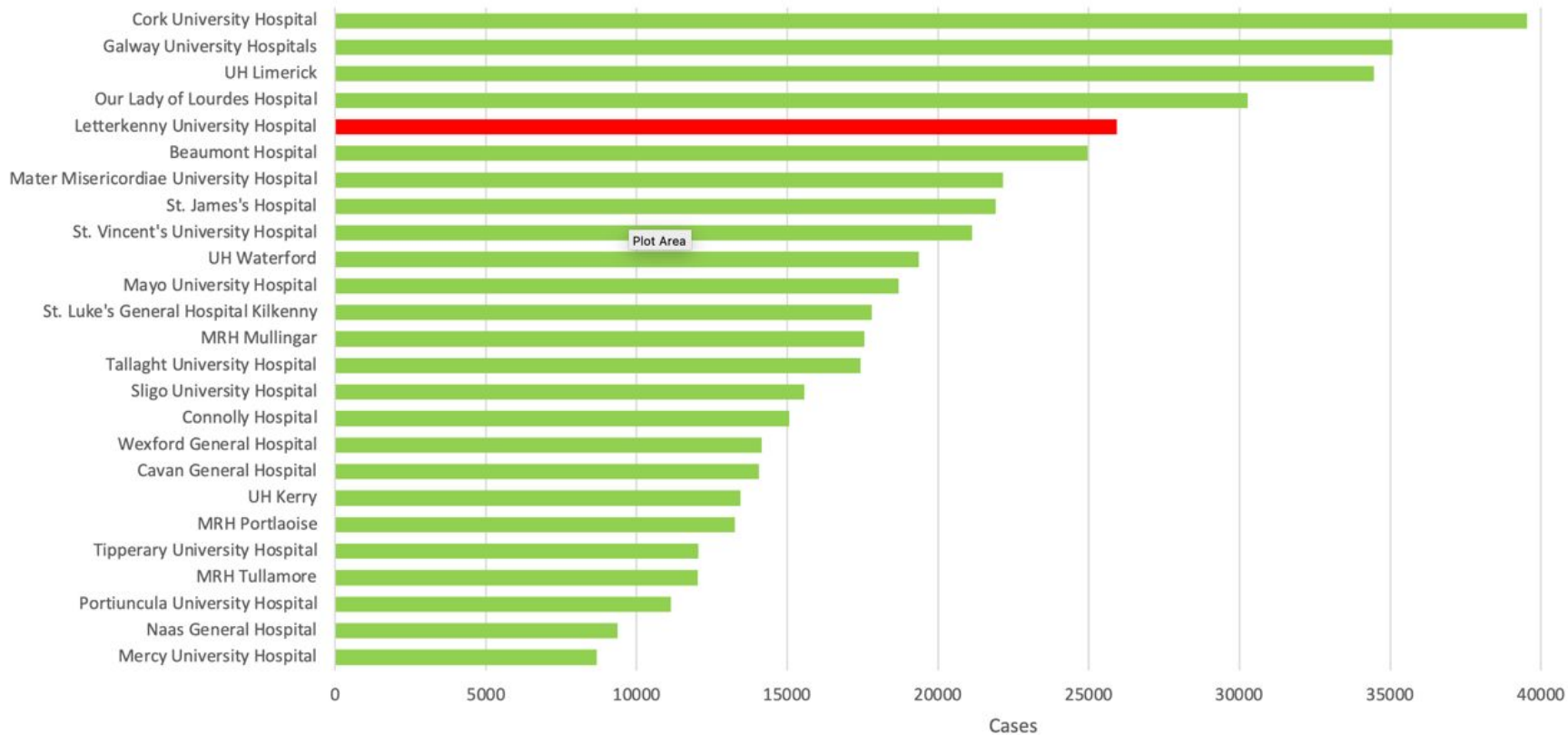


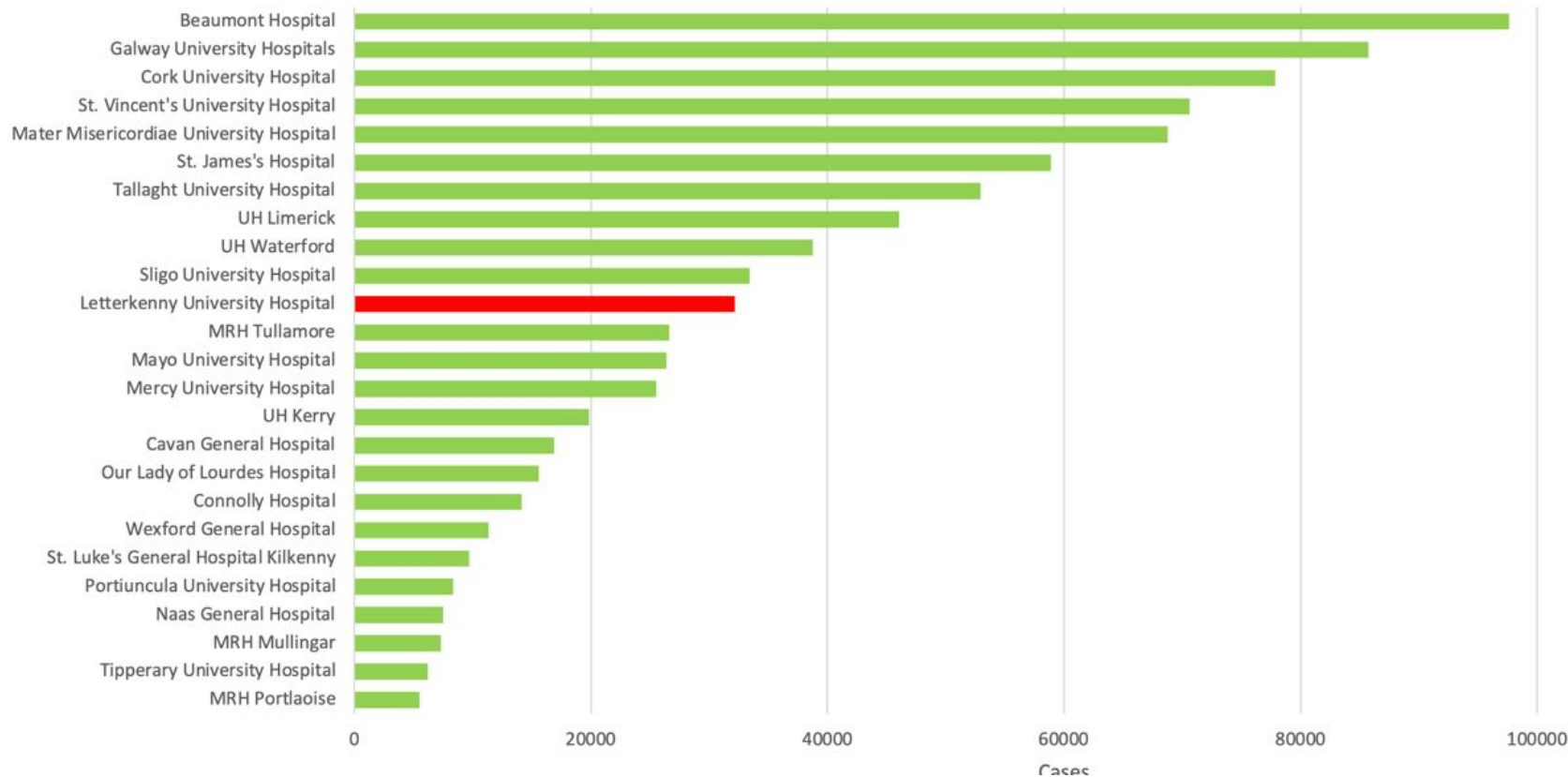
Table 2: Letterkenny & Selected M3 Hospitals Nationally

- Letterkenny is the largest (by a considerable margin) of the M3 hospitals shown in the tables
- It is also the least well remunerated (only Mayo comes close)
- Letterkenny spent €6.9 million per 1,000 inpatients in 2022
- For Saolta M3 hospitals the average spend was €8.4 million (22% more than Letterkenny currently receives)

Hospital	Budget (2022)	Inpatients (2022)	Cost per 1,000 inpatients	Relative Cost per 1,000 inpatients (LUH = 100%)
Mercy	€129,800,000	8,678	€15,000,000	215%
Tullamore	€134,200,000	12,086	€11,100,000	160%
Connolly	€154,900,000	14,356	€10,800,000	155%
Kerry	€126,400,000	13,445	€9,400,000	135%
Letterkenny	€179,900,000	25,922	€6,900,000	100%

LUH is preferred on clinical activity grounds

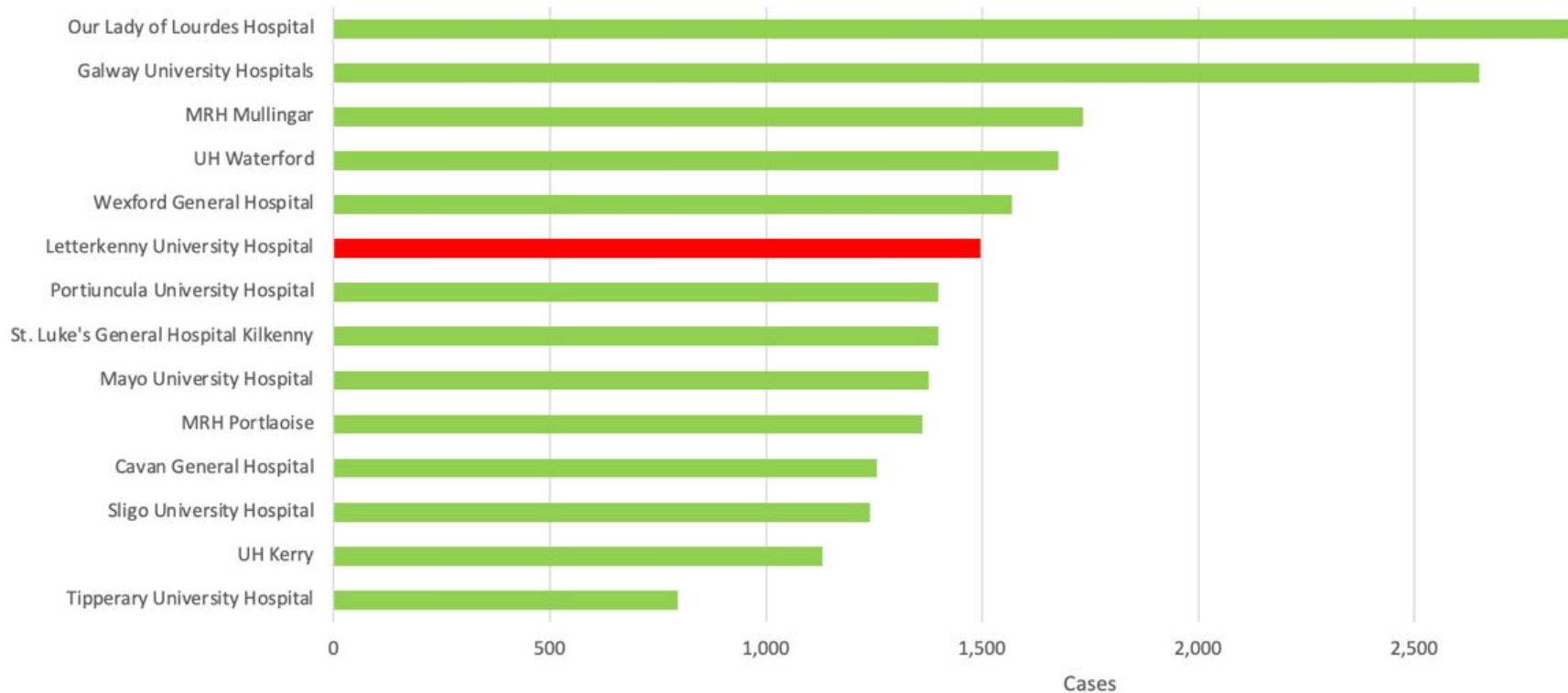
Day Cases 2022 (source NMR HSE)



LUH is preferred on clinical activity grounds

Births 2022

(source NMR HSE)



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LUH is preferred on funding grounds

Review of Funding WNW from 2020 - 2025						
	GUH	SUH	LUH	MUH	PUH	RUH
2020	408,866,976	159,556,293	156,508,684	118,567,944	83,388,587	28,236,592
2021	455,877,709	166,723,134	175,148,217	130,495,856	92,319,692	29,144,204
2022	449,690,273	172,769,370	176,001,128	131,592,398	85,000,701	32,053,614
2023	548,730,542	207,647,196	221,535,803	160,328,471	112,761,707	42,581,567
2024	537,952,284	205,689,849	209,755,387	153,727,079	106,110,132	37,898,845
2025	619,980,851	250,489,207	249,142,634	186,001,713	129,868,189	45,784,011
% Increase From						
2020 - 25	51.6%	57.0%	59.2%	56.9%	55.7%	62.1%

Letterkenny Hospital Funding Compared with Other M3 hospitals

Table 1: Letterkenny & Other M3 Hospitals in Saolta

Hospital	Budget (2022)	Inpatients (2022)	Cost per 1,000 inpatients	Relative Cost per 1,000 inpatients (LUH = 100%)
Sligo	€176,500,000	15,616	€11,300,000	163%
Portiuncula	€92,600,000	11,135	€8,300,000	120%
Mayo	€132,300,000	18,726	€7,100,000	102%
Letterkenny	€179,900,000	25,922	€6,900,000	100%
		Average	€8,400,000	122%

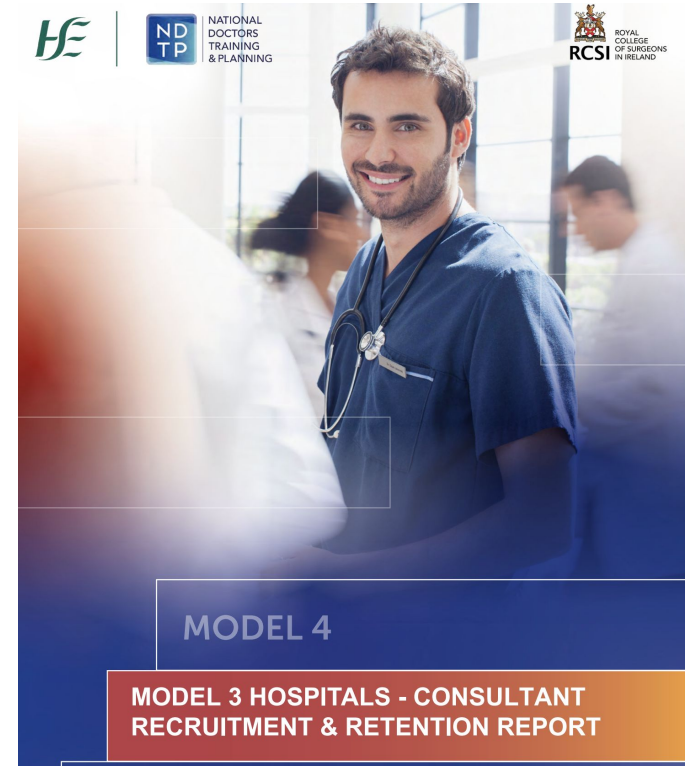
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Letterkenny	€179,900,000	25,922	€6,900,000	100%

LUH is preferred on surgical workforce grounds

“Unless we actively encourage recruitment, the Model 3 network will be challenged in service delivery in the near future. A service delivery crisis is inevitable unless Model 3 hospital posts are made more attractive.”



31st Aug 2010

Letter from LUH Clinical Director to Mr John Hennessy, Regional Director of Operations, HSE West

“Surgical services in Letterkenny .. are unsustainable and will fail catastrophically within 3-5 years if affirmative action is not taken. The failure mechanism will consist of inability to recruit NCHDs and consultants of a standard consistent with high quality care”

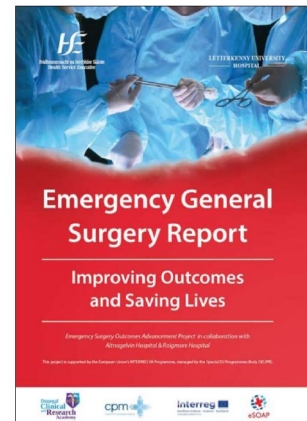
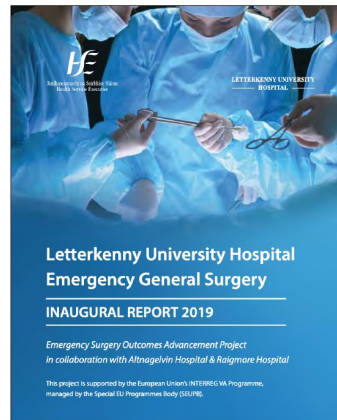
LUH is preferred on surgical workforce grounds

LUH had a powerful Department of Surgery

2010: 2 days operating week - 6 permanent surgeons

2025: 0.5-1 days operating week - 3 permanent surgeons

- Comprehensive services in Colorectal
- Leading results in breast cancer
- World class metabolic surgery
- National/international lead in Emergency Surgery



LUH is at imminent risk of collapse

MAIN THEATRE LISTS – MR. BODNAR – 2025.

24/04/25 FULL LIST CANCELLED – NO BEDS

10/04/25 FULL LIST CANCELLED – NO BEDS

27/03/25 Full list was performed. (The only one in 2025!)

25/03/25 HALF LIST CANCELLED – NO BEDS

18/03/25 HALF LIST CANCELLED – NO BEDS

13/03/25 HALF LIST CANCELLED – NO BEDS

27/02/25 No list due to AL.

11/02/25 Just 1 case was allowed due to winter bug AS PER MANAGEMENT

28/01/25 FULL LIST CANCELLED – NO BEDS

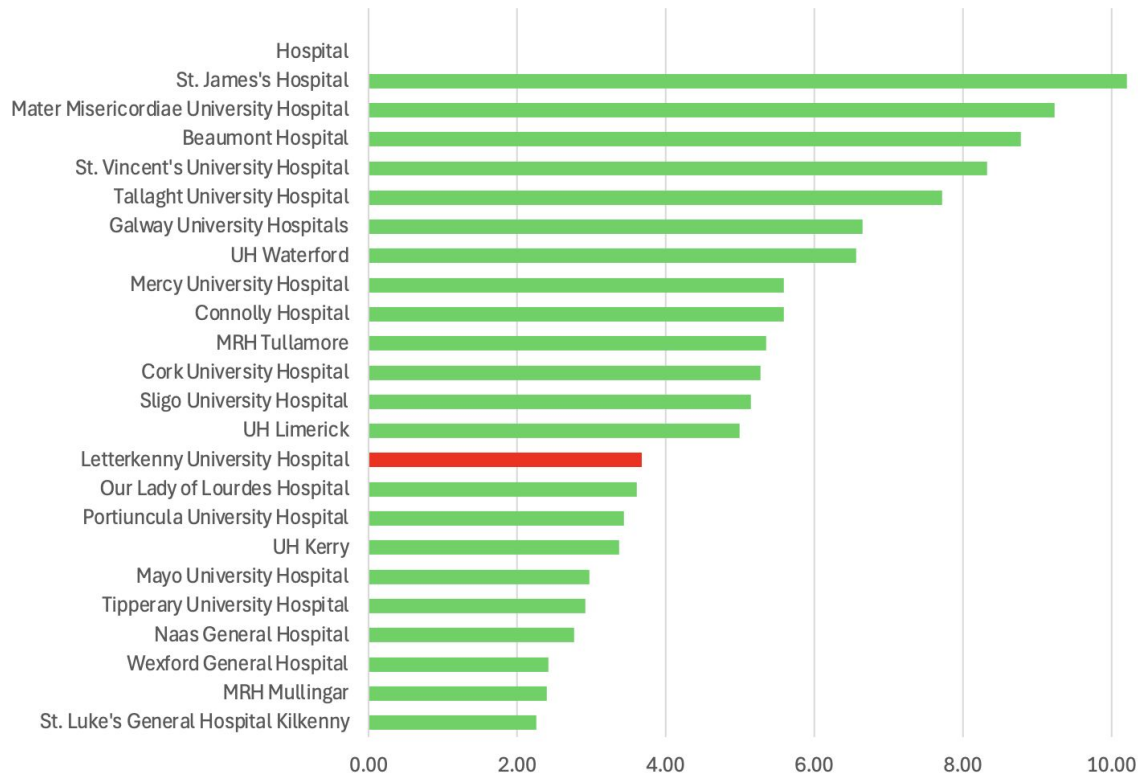
27/01/25 FULL LIST CANCELLED – NO BEDS

16/01/25 HALF LIST CANCELLED – Just time crit case was allowed AS PER MANAGEMENT

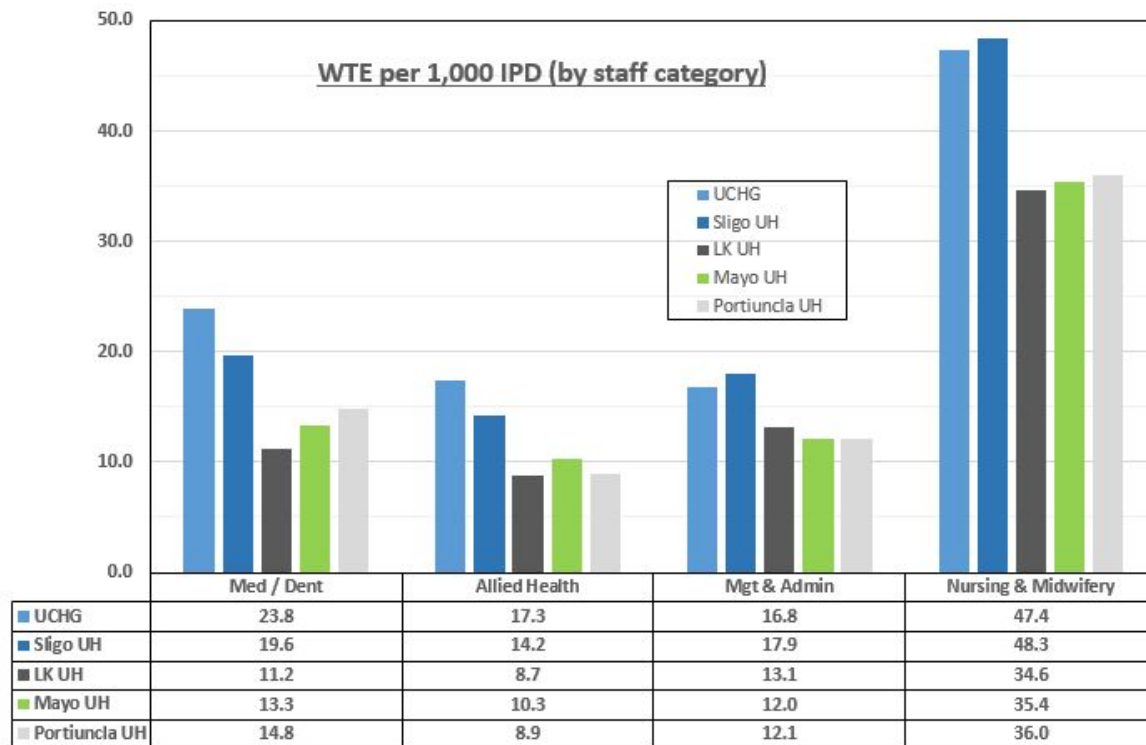
02/01/25 FULL LIST CANCELLED – due to winter bug AS PER MANAGEMENT

LUH is preferred on surgical workforce grounds

Consultants per 1000 in-patients



LUH is preferred on surgical workforce grounds



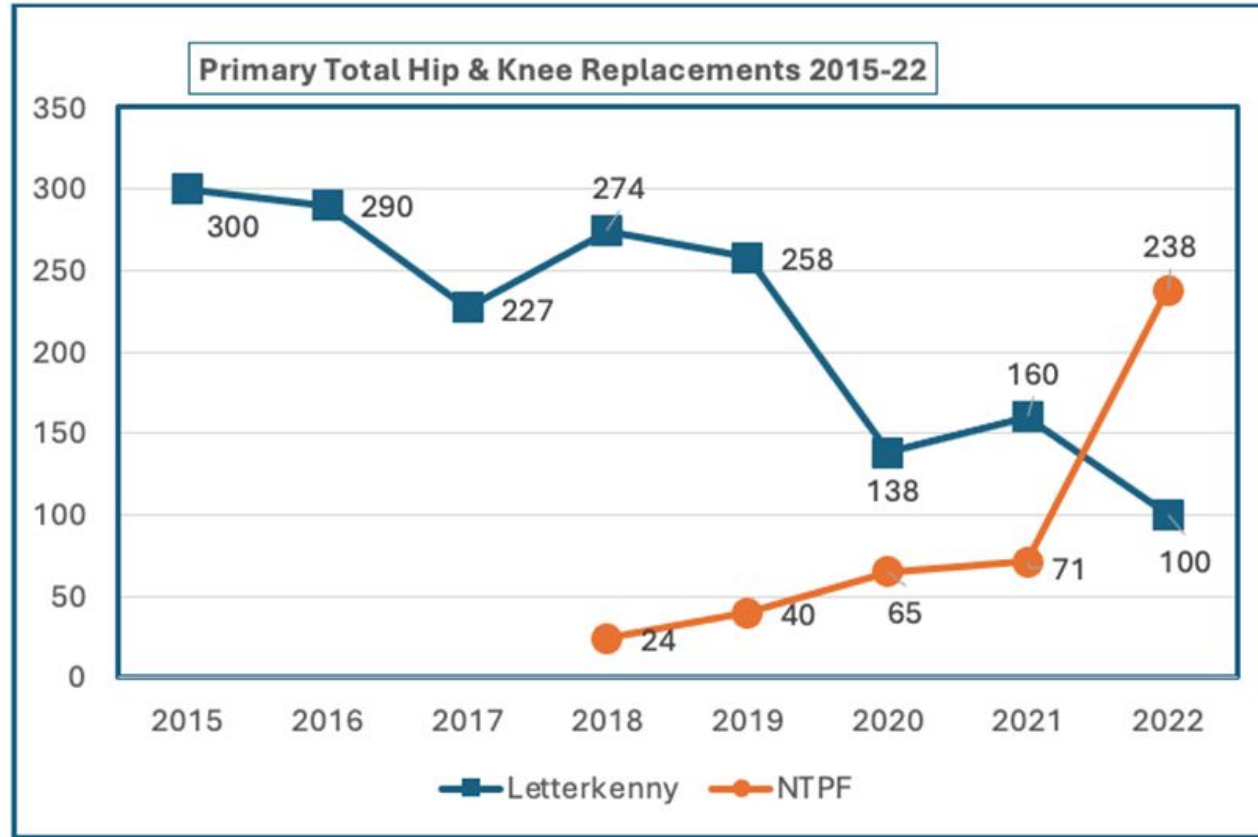
Note: Inpatient discharge data for 2023 from HSE BIU; Hospital WTE staff data from HSE census Oct '24

LUH is at imminent risk of collapse

>5000 LUH cases outsourced 50% in General Surgery

IPDC OUTSOURCING	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Cardiology		3	0	0		7	10
General Surgery	338	164	342	333	508	457	2142
Gynaecology	87	20	74	70	194	136	581
Ophthalmology	30	7	56	44	42	17	196
Orthopaediacs	42	102	96	233	239	214	926
Urology	209	278	308	194	187	234	1410
							0
TOTAL	706	574	876	874	1170	1065	5265

Progressive Outsourcing of Total Joint Arthroplasties at LUH 2018-22



Source Parliamentary Question For Written Answer on : 17/10/2023

Question Number(s): 564,566,567,568 Question Reference(s): 45042/23, 45044/23, 45045/23, 45046/23

Department: Health

LUH is at imminent risk of collapse

Cancellations & Delays → 169 Theatre cancellations 2024

**Now affecting Emergency Surgery ↘
116 Recovery Block Jan-March
2025**

No Beds

LUH is at imminent risk of collapse



**Relieve our acute capacity
400 approved surgeries for Hubs:-
'Laparoscopic cholecystectomy'
'Cancer surgery'**

SURGICAL HUBS CLINICAL GUIDANCE

Appendix 2 **List of Day Cases suitable for an Elective Surgery Hub**

The HPO (Healthcare Pricing Office) and the HSE in Ireland use ICD 10 AM / ACHI procedure codes (International Classification of Diseases 10 Australia Modification / Australian Classification of Health Interventions).

LUH campus has green field sites to develop



Promises of a master plan are justifiably treated with skepticism.

Unkept Promises or **UNMET REQUESTS**

by Saolta (WNW RHA) at Letterkenny University Hospital

CHECKLIST OF NEGLECT

- ☒ 1. ED modular expansion 2021
- ☒ 2. Endoscopy build 2013 2.3 million
- ☒ 3. Extension of Haemodialysis Unit 2015
- ☒ 4. MRI compatible anaesthetic equipment and monitors
- ☒ 5. Vascular access team
- ☒ 6. ICU rebuild 1 million 2018
- ☒ 7. Acute surgical assessment unit 2014
- ☒ 8. Donegal Clinical Research Academy 3 million 2010
- ☒ 9. Rapid Access Prostate Clinic
- ☒ 10. Hepatology fibroscan & nurse programme
- ☒ 11. 3rd tier of on call anaesthetist
- ☒ 12. Surgery for screen detected bowel cancer 2017
- ☒ 13. Renal ANP
- ☒ 14. Paeds Emergency Department Section
- ☒ 15. Block bay for regional anaesthesia
- ☒ 16. GP supported family history breast clinics
- ☒ 17. Dedicated trauma lists
- ☒ 18. 24/7 access to Labour Ward Theatre (opened in 2020)
- ☒ 19. Centralised digital CTG electronic fetal monitoring
- ☒ 20. Annual screening mammography data base
- ☒ 21. Robotic surgery theatre
- ☒ 22. Rods and cones for OR
- ☒ 23. Touch surgery
- ☒ 24. Dermatology service
- ☒ 25. Emergency surgery registry and KPIs
- ☒ 26. Emergency Surgery ANPs
- ☒ 27. Acute pain service
- ☒ 28. 14th anaesthetist
- ☒ 29. 3rd Haematology Consultant
- ☒ 30. Ring fenced surgical beds
- ☒ 31. Urology roster
- ☒ 32. Urology ambulatory unit
- ☒ 33. Expansion of Haematology
- ☒ 34. ERCP (had the scopes)
- ☒ 35. Expansion of tier of anaesthetic transfer doctors to 7 days/week

We're tired of promises. We need a surgical hub now.

LUH Surgical Hub Campaign



LETTERKENNY UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL



Conclusion

By any reasonable and objective measure, LUH stands out as the only logical evidence based location for a Surgical Hub.

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